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CONSUMERS' GOODS OUTPUT STILL SLOW

HEAVY INDUSTRY SLOW TO RESTORE CONSUMERS' GOODS SHOPS -- *Moskovskiy Bol'shevik*, No 129, 3 Jun' 49

During the last 3 years, the manufacture of fabric, knitted wear, and shoes in Moscow light industry factories has more than doubled. Gross production of consumers' goods in local industry and cooperative enterprises has increased more than 50 percent over 1940. In spite of the progress made by Moscow industry, production of consumers' goods cannot be considered adequate.

On the instructions of the 17th Party Congress in 1934, shops producing consumers' goods were set up in the majority of heavy industry plants and in producing enterprises of the railroad and communications industries. These were to have been restored on the conclusion of the war in 1945. It should be noted that the capacities of these plants were greater in 1945 than in 1940; they had received additional equipment and had accumulated experience in continuous mass production.

Not all enterprise directors, however, have given sufficient attention to the problem of restoring consumers' goods shops. The number of plants which have handled this problem well ("Elektrostal'" Plant, Automobile Plant imeni Stalin, "Kompressor" Plant, "Krasnyy Proletariy" Plant, and some others) is small in comparison to those plants which have dealt with this politically important matter in a formalistic, bureaucratic manner.

Directors and party leaders of many plants have until now regarded this problem as of small importance and have merely concerned themselves with it from time to time. The equipment and workers of these shops are frequently used as plant reserves. Consumers' goods shops are usually the last to receive supplies of materials, tools, and electric power.

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MOSCOW INDUSTRIAL COOPERATIVES LAG -- Moskovskiy Bol'shevik, No 130, 4 Jun 49

Of 22 industrial unions in the system of the Moscow Oblast Industrial Cooperatives, only three -- the knitted goods, transport, and junk -- fulfilled their pledges to accelerate the turnover of working capital and release funds to the State. The remaining unions slowed down the turnover during the first quarter, with the result that turnover of working capital throughout the oblast industrial cooperatives was slowed 25 days and cost an additional 85 million rubles in turnover funds. At the same time, industrial unions exceeded the first-quarter plan almost 3 percent, increased productivity of labor 12.6 percent, decreased production costs 4.4 percent, and realized 19 million rubles in above-plan accumulations.

The main reason for the slowdown in turnover and the increase in working capital needed by the unions is the great amount of capital invested in semifinished goods and unsold goods stored in warehouses. At the beginning of the second quarter, the value of goods in warehouses of the unions increased 35 million rubles and the indebtedness of consumers to the unions for goods already sold increased 21 million rubles. Poor production quality, limited assortment of goods, manufacture of goods not in demand, and ignorance of the needs of the market are other causes for the poor financial conditions of the unions.

The unions' artels also include the maximum profit of 15 percent in the cost of production, but this profit often turns to loss because goods produced by State industry are usually sold at prices under those set by the industrial unions. Consumers voluntarily buy the cheaper products made by State industry.

OUTPUT OF CHILDREN'S GOODS INCREASED -- Leningradskaya Pravda, No 126, 31 May 49

Enterprises of the Ministry of Local Industry RSMO are increasing the output of goods for children, including games, furniture, and dishes. Thirty-one enterprises are to manufacture children's furniture, and 12 million rubles' worth will be ready by the end of the year. During 1949, 75 million rubles' worth of games and toys above plan will be manufactured.

SHOE FACTORY INSTALLS FIRST CONVEYOR -- Sovetskaya Belorussiya, No 107, 31 May 49

"Krasnyy Oktyabr'" Shoe Factory in Vitebsk has completed the assembly of its first conveyor. This will lead to a considerable increase in the factory output.

SORTAVALA FELT FACTORY MEETS 6-MONTH PLAN -- Leninskoye Znamya, No 109, 4 Jun 49

The Sortavala Felt Factory, Karelo-Finnish SSR, completed the 6-month plan one month ahead of schedule, exceeding the 6-month plan for felt boot production by 3 percent and the May plan by 41 percent. By the end of June, the factory expects to produce 2,000 pairs of boots above plan. The plan for production of first-class goods was exceeded.

The factory is being equipped with more modern machinery. A large fulling machine was recently installed. In June the factory will start production of felt.

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MOSCOW VEGETABLE PRICES LOWERED -- Moskovskiy Bol'shevik, No 128, 2 Jun 49

Beginning 2 June, retail prices on early spring vegetables and greens in Moscow will be lowered. A bunch of ten red radishes now cost 50 kopeks instead of 1 ruble. The same price is set for a bunch of five white radishes. Green onions with bulbs (without roots) are sold for 2 rubles per kilogram, and with roots for 1.50 rubles. A bunch of five beets or ten carrots costs 50 kopeks, and another variety of carrots is 80 kopeks.

Greens have become considerably cheaper. One kilogram of sorrel or spinach is 2 rubles, head lettuce and celery 6 rubles, other greens and parsley 4 rubles, and dill 8 rubles. Celery greens are sold for 3 rubles and beet greens for 50 kopeks per kilogram.

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